Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 INR-05 SS-14 $/029~\mathrm{W}$

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CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 25147

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LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, TH

SUBJ: RTAF PROCUREMENT PLANS

REF: A. STATE 217336, B. STATE 185286, C. BANGKOK 20139, D. BANGKOK 23710

- 1. LAST OFFICIAL INQUIRY FROM RTAF REGARDING ITS REQUEST FOR P&B DATA ON A-10A, ORIGINALLY MADE A YEAR AGO, WAS IN DECEMBER, 1977. ABSENCE OF ANY FURTHER INQUIRIES SINCE THEN SUGGESTS TO US THAT RTAF MAY NO LONGER BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING A-10A IN ITS SEARCH FOR AN IMPROVED CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AIRCRAFT. WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO OPEN UP A-10A ISSUE AGAIN WITH RTAF AND PREFER TO CONSIDER IT DEAD.
- 2. IT APPEARS THAT RTAF HAS NOW FOCUSED ON AERO MACCHI MB-326K AND A-37 AS ALTERNATIVES TO A-10A. OUR SOURCES INFORM US THAT RTAF IS CLOSE TO REACHING FINAL SELECTION OF ONE OF THESE TYPES OF AIRCRAFT. IN THIS REGARD WE BELIEVE THAT EARLY RESPONSE TO RTAF REQUEST FOR P&B DATA FOR A-37, REFTEL D, WOULD HELP TO RESOLVE MATTER AND PROBABLY END FURTHER THAI INTEREST IN A-10A CONFIDENTIAL

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IF IT IS NOT ALREADY OVER. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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